

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /097 W

----- 119931

R 232312Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3920

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, MX

SUBJ: GOM STUNG BY TIME ARTICLE

1. LATIN AMERICAN EDITION TIME MAGAZINE FOR SEPTEMBER 16 RAN ARTICLE ON MEXICO ENTITLED "STATE OF SEMI-SIEGE". ARTICLE FOCUSES UPON THEN UNRESOLVED (AND STILL NOT CONVINCINGLY EXPLAINED) ZUNO AND FIGUEROA KIDNAPPINGS. IT CONCLUDES (CORRECTLY, IN EMBASSY VIEW) THAT GUERRILLAS/TERRORISTS ARE "SO FAR NOT A REAL CASTRO-LIKE THREAT" TO GOM. ARTICLE CITES, HOWEVER, "PROFOUND DISCONTENT" SURFACING "FROM BENEATH PRI'S (GOVERNMENT PARTY) OUTDATED REVOLUTIONARY SLOGANS", AND NOTES POPULATION PROBLEM AND UNEMPLOYMENT LEADING TO ILLEGAL EMIGRATION OF MANY WORKERS TO U.S. TIME GLOOMILY CONCLUDES: "NO ONE EXPECTS MUCH CHANGE BEFORE HIS (ECHEVERRIA'S) TERM EXPIRES, IF THEN."

2. IN FOLLOWING (SEPTEMBER 23) ISSUE OF TIME, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF PRESIDENCY FAUSTO ZAPATA COMMENTED (IN FORUM SECTION) ON ARTICLE AS FOLLOWS:

"MEXICO CONTINUES TO BE AN ISLAND OF STABILITY, AND NOT ONLY IN LATIN AMERICA. REGARD YOUR OWN CIRCUMSTANCES: IN ELEVEN YEARS, ONE PRESIDENT ASSASSINATED, COUNTLESS RIOTS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSAULTS AND KIDNAPINGS, A LONG AND UNJUST WAR WAGED AGAINST

THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE, THE HIGHEST OFFICIALS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ON TRIAL, AND POLITICAL SCANDAL AS A WAY OF LIFE. THE 'ISLAND OF STABILITY' TO WHICH YOUR ARTICLE REFERS PREVAILS THROUGHOUT THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

"IT IS AN OUTRAGEOUS LIE TO SAY THAT OUR COUNTRY IS IN A 'STATE OF SEMI-SIEGE,' ALTHOUGH TIME'S TENDENTIOUSNESS SHOULD NO LONGER SURPRISE US.

"WE HAVE NO MORE OR FEWER PROBLEMS THAN THOSE OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE TURBULENT WORLD OF OUR TIMES, BUT WE DO HAVE A STABLE GOVERNMENT AND A FIRM PURPOSE: TO OVERCOME, BY DEMOCRATIC MEANS, THE OBSTACLES ARISING FROM EVERY PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT."

3. POLEMICAL REACTION OF GOM (IT IS ALMOST INCONCEIVABLE THAT ZAPATA'S REPLY WAS NOT CLEARED WITH ECHEVERRIA) REFLECTS SENSITIVITY OF REGIME TO CRITICISM, ESPECIALLY FROM US SOURCES, AND SUGGESTS TIME STRUCK UNCOMFORTABLY CLOSE TO HOME.
JOVA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, KIDNAPPING, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MEXICO08056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740267-0972
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740923/aaaaaswx.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOM STUNG BY TIME ARTICLE
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, MX, TIME MAGAZINE, (ZUNO), (FIGUEROA), (ZAPATA, FAUSTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005